LIBRA

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR TO THE ST. IVES BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1951.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

The Guildhall,
ST. IVES,
Cornwall.

Public Health Department,

The Guildhall,

ST. IVES,

Cornwall.
August, 1952.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of St. Ives.

Mr. Mayor, Lady and Gentlemen,

In introducing the Annual Report I must first of all refer to the death of the former Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Hadfield. As the first fulltime Medical Officer of Health for this Borough and the three other Councils now constituting Cornwall No. 1 Area, he set a high standard and it is only proper to record the excellent work he did for the whole area.

Few points stand out particularly except, of course, the Census which although it was a national event is likely to have considerable local repercussions when the full figures for the Borough become available.

The Amalveor Scheme proceeded slowly on its way but eventually the Borough's persistence was rewarded by the Ministry's full approval. This and other items of special interest are referred to later.

In conclusion, it is a pleasure to mention the cordial co-operation I have received from the Chief Officers of the other Departments and their Staffs, while the assistance of Mr. Douglas, the Sanitary Inspector, has been given ungrudgingly at all times.

I am, Mr. Mayor,
Your obedient Servant,

W.K. DUNSCOMBE.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION.
1951.

1.	Civilian Population - Registrar General's Mid Year Estimate	...	8,598.
	Census Figure	...	9,037.
2.	Area	...	4,339 acres.
3.	Rateable Value	...	£83,254.
4.	Product of 1d Rate	...	£334.
5.	No. of Inhabited Houses	...	3,010.
6.	Comparability Factor	...	0·71
7.	Live Births 72 Male 49 Female	...	121 Total.
	Rate per 1,000 Population 14·2		
8.	Still Births	...	Nil.
9.	Total Deaths 68 Male 70 Female	...	138 Total.
	Rate per 1,000 Population 16·16		
10.	Infant Deaths 4 Male - Female	...	4 Total.
	Rate per 1,000 Live Births 33·0		

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	2	1	3
Syphilitic Disease	1	-	1
Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	-	1
Cancer - Stomach	7	5	12
Lung, Bronchus	1	-	1
Breast	-	1	1
Uterus	-	2	2
Other Sites	3	4	7
Diabetes	1	-	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	9	10	19
Coronary Disease, Angina	11	5	16
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	6	8
Other Heart Disease	16	17	33
Other Circulatory Disease	2	1	3
Influenza	-	3	3
Pneumonia	1	3	4
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	3	1	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	5	7	12
Accidents	-	1	1
	68	70	138

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Heart Disease	...	47
Cancer	...	23
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System		19

VITAL STATISTICS COMMENT.

1. Census. The figure given is larger than the Mid-Year Estimate but the reason is not known. However, as it was the first Census for 20 years the figures obtained will form the basis of many new actuarial calculations especially in connection with the social benefits obtainable now or in the future. The general ageing of the population is already an ominous fact but the full effects of this in this county have yet to be discovered as the volume for Cornwall has so far not been published.

2. Attention is drawn to the inverse Birth/Death ratio. The figures are small and therefore subject to relatively large fluctuations but their import is clear.

3. As usual the principal causes of death are Heart Disease, Cancer, and Disease of the Arteries of the Brain, but an interesting point is that this year deaths due to diseases of the kidney which have been quite prominent in other years are few.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply.

Number of Houses on Mains.	Number of Houses with Standpipe Supply.	Number of Houses With No Piped Supply.
2,921	NIL	182

The above figures have been furnished by courtesy of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

(a) In general the supply has been well maintained on account of the rather wet summer but none the less the town should bear in mind that in part of August consumption went up to about 600,000 gallons per day, and that there is still only one submersible pump in the Victory Shaft. In my opinion it is essential that a reserve be available in case of breakdown.

(b) Amalveor Scheme. The importance of this Scheme is that not only is it a joint one with West Penwith Rural District Council to supply the village of Nancledra as far south as Borea, but that while augmenting the supply to St. Ives Borough the Hamlet of Halsetown is supplied as well. This Hamlet might be described as the forgotten city since it has neither water although the Bussow Reservoir is only about 600 yards away, nor any system of drainage. The town has nothing to its credit that this place has been left without services for so many years and it is very high time indeed that water was available since the only supply at all is the pump in the Inn. Even under this Scheme only a Standpipe Supply is envisaged which though a great deal better than nothing is still not good enough, and the drainage problem will still be with us.

Negotiations with the West Penwith Rural District Council regarding the siting of the respective outflow valves from the intake tank at Amalveor itself and also the line of main and its extent have taken a great deal longer than was hoped but now full Ministry approval to the Scheme has been received it is not too much to expect that for St. Ives this Scheme will be completed by the end of 1952.

2. Sewerage.

(a) Carbis Bay. It is pleasant to record that at long last the Scheme for the sewering of the part of Carbis Bay below the railway has been completed and great credit is due to the Borough Engineer's Department for the difficulties which were overcome so ably.

(b) Gas Works Effluent. During the year difficulty arose with the South Western Gas Board regarding the disposal of the effluent from the Gas Works. For many years this has discharged on the rocks on the South West side of the Island but when some obstruction occurred in the effluent pipe a request was made to discharge it into the Council's sewer. This was granted as a

very temporary expedient pending some permanent solution. This, unfortunately, took a good deal longer than was anticipated but the Council were very anxious as to the effect the discharge of this tarry matter would have on the sand which unavoidably gets into the sewer and also on the holding tank. Eventually the effluent pipe was repaired and discharge is now taking place as in former years.

(c) Lelant Sewerage. Nothing further eventuated on this, about which I made remarks last year but it is earnestly hoped that soon the proposal will be proceeded with.

3. Sand at Porthmeor Beach.

This is only a public health matter when it blocks drains and so affects the sewer but, of course, the formidable banks in front of the Studios allowed sand to drift on to the roads after any heavy wind. This accumulation of years has at last been tackled with very great success so it is hoped that obstruction to drains from this source will be materially less in the future.

4. Housing.

The Council continued to make very good progress (relatively) in their housing estates at Penbeagle and Carbis Bay. In all 40 Council and 6 Private Enterprise houses were built. However, insufficient consideration has been given to the problem of housing old people which by reason of special requirements re sites and actual accommodation merit the most careful thought.

5. Infectious Disease.

The number of cases of notified disease is less than last year. Immunisation was steadily proceeded with and though the number of children under 5 attending the special clinics for this purpose was not large, a number was immunised by Private Practitioners.

One point that should have been brought to the notice of the Department officially was that a number of cases of some form of illness occurred particularly in one hotel. They were not cases of food poisoning but none the less it is essential to stress that any illness of whatever nature affecting a number of people is a matter in which the Public Health Department must be concerned and indeed in which they might be able to help.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1951.

1. MISCELLANEOUS VISITS.

Premises Visited re Complaints	...	256
Re-Inspections	...	177
Drain Tests - New and Repair Work	...	135
House Inspections	...	55
Rodent Control Inspections	...	303
Public Conveniences	...	80
Camping Sites	...	31
Factories	...	41
Bake Houses	...	16
Fumigations	...	6
Ice Cream Premises	...	19
Cafes and Food Premises	...	123
Public Houses	...	6
Salvage Depot	...	43

2. FOOD PREMISES.

All premises where food is prepared are inspected regularly and, while not up to the standard one would wish for owing to the congestion of the premises and the difficulty of carrying out structural alterations, the cleanliness of the premises as a whole is good. Various premises have been able to carry out alterations which they have found to their advantage.

3. ICE CREAM.

During the summer 19 visits were made to Ice Cream Manufacturer's premises, and 6 samples of ice cream were submitted to the County Analyst. The results were as follows :-

Grade 1	- 3.	Grade 2	- 1.
Grade 3	- 2.	Grade 4	- 0.

This is an improvement on last year, but there should be no samples in Grade 3.

1 Sample was taken for fat content, the result being 7% fat.

4. REGISTRATION OF PREMISES FOR THE SALE OF ICE CREAM.

During the year 6 applications were received for registration for the sale of ice cream. 6 were granted. In my opinion it is unfortunate that Local Authorities cannot control the type of premises from which ice cream can be sold. At present ice cream can be sold from practically any shop provided they have the facilities for washing their hands. Most of the large ice cream manufacturers wrap their products but there is no provision in the Act which stipulates that a Licence can be granted for the sale of wrapped ice cream only which means that once a licence is granted the proprietor can please himself whether he sells wrapped or loose ice cream.

5. UNSOUND FOOD CONDEMNED.

During the year the following articles of food were inspected and condemned as unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered :-

624 Tins of Various Food.	20 lbs. Meat (Bone Taint).
5 Stone Fish.	12 lbs Cherries.
7 lb Tea.	30 lbs Prunes.
5 lb Cheese (Mouldy).	40 Pkts. Mashed Potatoes.
10 Boxes Dates.	24 Pkts. Rusks.
11 lbs Biscuits.	40 Pkts. Sponge Flour Mixture.

6. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Collection and Disposal of House and Trade Refuse.

Collection is by means of two 10 cub. Yds lorries. Disposal of House and Trade Refuse is at Hayle where, in conjunction with the West Penwith Rural District Council, controlled tipping is carried out.

Number of Loads of Refuse per Week	 32
Approximate Weight of Refuse per Week	.... 70 Tons.
Approximate Weight of Refuse per Year	.... 3,500 Tons.
Approximate Mileage per Vehicle per Year	...15,000 Miles.

7. SALVAGE.

The amount of salvage collected during the year amounted to 91 tons 11 cwts. 16 lbs. at a total value of £1,420. 18. 0d. Comparing this with the 1948 collection (which was the last full year's collection) we have increased the amount collected by 4 tons but the increase in value amounted to £764. 10. 0d. This has been due to the high prices being paid for salvage but like all good things this will come to an end.

8. ROAD SWEEPING.

The mileage of roads requiring sweeping amounted to 20 miles of unclassified roads and 10·53 of County Council roads. It is annoying that after the roads have been cleaned and everything is ship shape that after 8 p.m. the roads are strewn with newspapers and bags from Fish and Chip shop people. Many people enjoy fish and chips and we do not wish to prevent them from eating out of a bag but surely they can roll their paper up into a ball and place it in the nearest litter bin.

9. GULLY AND CESSPIT EMPTYING MACHINE.

During the year this vehicle was hired out on 43 occasions to private individual property owners who are not on main drainage. The vehicle is also on hire to Penzance Town Council two days a week and to the adjacent Local Authorities when desired.

There is no doubt that this type of vehicle is a boon to property owners in the surrounding district who are not on main drainage as it is impossible to get men to-day to empty cesspits by buckets, apart from the question of time and the cost of labour.

10. RODENT CONTROL.

During the year the number of properties treated and re-inspected was as follows:-

Local Authority.	41 properties.	123 visits.
Private Dwellings.	22 properties.	66 visits.
Business Premises.	38 properties.	114 visits.

The number of rats poisoned was 69, while 22 were caught by traps. Very few rats are caught in sewers, due to the small size of the sewers, making it impossible for rats to breed as the sewers become surcharged during heavy rain. 26 manholes were treated but no evidence of rats was found.

I am indebted to Mr. T. Nankervis for the work he carries out in keeping the town free from rats.

11. FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

The number of factories registered in the Borough is 71. During the year 63 inspections were made, 8 were found to require lime washing or small repairs, one had insufficient sanitary convenience and one no separation for the sexes, all were complied with.

12. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938. Report for the Year Ending 31st Dec. 1951.

I am indebted to Mr. H.A. Rundle of Cornwall County Council (which is the Food and Drugs Authority) for the following figures of samples taken by his Department.

Details of Samples Procured during 1951 from the Borough of St. Ives.

Article.	No. of Samples Taken.	Result of Analysis. Genuine.	Adulterated.
Milk	13	13	-
Malt Vinegar	3	3	-
Butter	2	2	-
Golden Spread	1	1	-
Jelly	1	1	-
Chicken Patties	1	1	-
Health and Liver Salts	1	1	-
Cut Peel	1	1	-
Lemonade Powder	1	1	-
Dried Mint	1	1	-
Mincemeat	1	1	-
Christmas Pudding	1	1	-
Pasteurised Processed Cheese	1	1	-
Raspberry Cordial	1	1	-
Sausages	1	1	Contained undeclared preservative.
Total	30	30	

13. RAG FLOCK ACT REGULATION, 1951.

This new Act which came into force this year applies to 4 firms in the Borough. All the premises concerned comply with the Regulation.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
(Corrected Notifications.)

1951.

DISEASE.	PENZANCE.	WEST PENWITH	ST. IVES.	ST. JUST.
Measles	542	262	68	179
Scarlet Fever	40	11	12	-
Food Poisoning	-	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	4	21	34	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	2	-	-
Diphtheria	3	-	1	-
Meningoccocal Infection	-	1	-	-
Dysentery	17	4	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	7	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-
Rheumatic Fever	2	-	-	-
Rheumatic Arthritis	-	-	1	-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

1951.

AREA	NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO COMPLETED A FULL COURSE OF IMMUNISATION IN 1951.			NUMBER OF CHILDREN RECEIVING REFRESHER DOSES.
	Under 5.	5 - 14.	Total.	
Penzance	261	32	293	378
St. Ives	86	1	87	58
West Penwith Rural District	288	75	363	626
St. Just Urban District	62	7	69	81

APPENDIX B.

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS FOR 1951.

		Number on Register at 31.12.51.	1 - 5.	5 - 15.	15 - 20.	20 - 25.	25 - 35.	35 - 45.	45 - 65.	Over 65.	Total.
PENZANCE.											
Pulmonary	M.	73	-	1	-	1	3	2 (2)	3 (2)	2	12 (4)
	F.	60	-	3	3	-	2 (1)	2 (3)	2 (1)	1 (1)	13 (6)
Non -Pul.	M.	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	2 (1)
	F.	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WEST PENWITH.											
Pulmonary	M.	55	-	1	-	-	3	1	3	- (2)	8 (2)
	F.	36	1	-	-	3	-	1	-	- (1)	5 (1)
Non-Pul.	M.	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1)	1 (1)
ST. JUST.											
Pulmonary	M.	36	-	-	-	-	-	1	5 (2)	5 (1)	11 (3)
	F.	17	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	3
Non-Pul.	M.	3	-	-	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	- (1)
	F.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
ST. IVES.											
Pulmonary	M.	32	-	-	-	1	-	-	1 (2)	-	2 (2)
	F.	21	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1 (1)	2 (1)
Non-Pul.	M.	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F.	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

( ) = Deaths.

Total Notifications - 60.
Total Deaths - 22.